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Resolution 1933-08-13 Congressional Committee on Wildlife Resources

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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Whereas the present administration has given unprecedented recognition to the need for conserving and wisely using the nation's natural resources; and

Whereas the conservation and restoration of our migratory game birds constitute one of the most important natural-resource problems confronting the American people; and

Whereas extensive submarginal land areas should be utilized as waterfowl breeding and feeding grounds, thereby removing such lands from agriculture; now therefore be it

Resolved, That we urge the Secretary of Agriculture to endeavor to obtain from the Emergency Conservation Work Funds or the Public Works Funds not less than six million dollars for the immediate acquisition and development of bird breeding and feeding grounds to relieve the crisis now confronting the waterfowl of North America.

Whereas the Special United States Senate Committee on Wild Life Resources has materially advanced the general cause of conservation through extended studies and Congressional proposals; and

Whereas a resolution, sponsored by the Hon. A. Willis Robertson of Virginia, is now pending in the House of Representatives to set up a similar committee in the House of Representatives; therefore be it

Resolved, That the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners endorse this proposal and urge the House of Representatives to add this proposed committee in order that the nation's wildlife resources may be better conserved;

Be it further resolved, That the Secretary of the Association immediately bring this resolution to the attention of the proper authorities.

Whereas the Public Works Administrator of our Federal Government has available large sums for allocation to various uses which will create employment and aid in the conservation of our natural resources; and

Whereas experiments made by the United States Bureau of Mines conclusively prove that by sealing abandoned mines the water therefrom will not be injurious to our streams; therefore be it

Resolved, That the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners urge Hon. Harold L. Ickes, Public Works Administrator, to allocate a sum of at least \$500,000 to some Federal agency like the United States Bureau of Mines for the sealing of abandoned coal mines, especially in the Ohio River watershed;

Be it further resolved, That the Secretary of the Association immediately bring this resolution to the attention of the Public Works Administrator and that a copy be sent to President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Whereas the United States War Department, during experimental work offshore of the Aberdeen Proving Grounds at the head of Chesapeake Bay, May and June, 1923, dropped from planes thousands of pounds of phosphorus over excellent waterfowl feeding area on the celery beds; and

Whereas the unexpended phosphorus on this area has been a constant menace to waterfowl, especially canvasbacks, redheads and whistling swans, it being estimated that at least 50,000 canvasback ducks have been killed here since 1923; and

Whereas investigations by the United States Biological Survey, the War Department's engineers and the State Game Department of Maryland have definitely traced the cause of this terrific mortality to said phosphorus poisoned area; and

Whereas it has been determined that by dredging this area, which is twelve hundred yards by four hundred yards, further destruction of waterfowl will cease, and that the future protection and development of the Aberdeen Proving Grounds necessitate extensive dredging and filling; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Public Works Administrator, Hon. Harold L. Ickes, be urged by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners to make available immediately to the War Department sufficient funds for this work in the interest of public defense as well as the conservation of our important species of migratory game birds;

Be it further resolved, That the Secretary be instructed to convey this petition to the Hon. Harold L. Ickes, Public Works Administrator, to the Secretary of War and to the Secretary of Agriculture at once, and that a copy of said petition be forwarded to the Hon. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, President of the United States.

The utilization of leisure time under the new order is already becoming a problem of great concern to millions of people throughout the country. The facilities for recreation for those thousands whose hours of labor have been shortened are of vast concern both to them and to those whose responsible duties are to protect, conserve and develop the states' and nation's renewable resources.

It has been a stupendous task, with the meager sums of money, during normal times, allotted to state and Federal departments for those who are burdened with the problems of maintaining and developing of wild-life resources of field, forest and stream, to provide an ample supply for the millions of men, women and children who already had hours to spare